Ministry of MSME is implementing a number of schemes for the promotion and development of MSMEs including those engaged in footwear manufacturing. Major programmes include the Cluster Development Programme, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme and Skill Development Programmes. The Ministry of MSME has also set up the Central Footwear Training Institute in Agra for this purpose. The Institute conducts training and also provides common facilities services to the micro and small units. In addition, the Government is implementing the Indian Leather Development Programme for growth of the leather sector.

Bell metal industries in Assam

1784. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the facts that the age-old bell metal industries at Sarthebari and Hajo in Assam are facing various problems;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to promote such small and cottage industries in Assam and North East Region;

(c) whether Government would take steps to supply raw material to such industry at the working place like Sarthebari and Hajo; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (d) Government of India and Government of Assam have taken various steps for promotion of bell and brass metal industry in small and cottage sector in Assam. Through its various schemes, Government of Assam has supported construction of godowns, factory sheds; use of improved tools; setting up of raw material depot etc. for the two clusters at Sarthebari and Hajo. Under the cluster development programme, Central Government, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has supported capacity building and marketing inputs for the Hajo cluster as well as provided financial assistance for setting up of a common facility centre at Hajo.

Employment generation through PMEGP

1785. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not fulfilled its promise of creating over six lakh jobs through the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme during 2008-09;

(b) whether this is due to delay in issuing guidelines and reluctance of banks to disburse loans;

(c) whether Government had set up a target of part-financing 61,227 projects and generating 6,12,245 jobs in 600 odd districts of the country during 2008-09;

(d) whether at end of March 2009, it could fund only 36,287 project, giving work to 3,62,870 people; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove these hurdles so that target is achieved in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (d) As Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit linked subsidy programme and banks finance as much as 60% of the project cost after assessment of their viability, the target in terms of number of projects, and employment likely to be generated are only estimated figures. Actual achievement would depend among various factors, on the nature, cost and location of projects/units.

Implementation guidelines of PMEGP could be issued in September 2008 after obtaining approval of the competent authority in August 2008. Preliminary activities of implementation like publicity, workshops, distribution of targets, etc. took some time as it involved coordination by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) of State Governments and about 850 nodal branches as well as 12000 financing bank branches spread across the country. Imposition of model code conduct of General Elections, elections in six States in 2008, and delay in constitution of District Level Task Force (DLTF) by concerned State Governments also resulted in less availability of time for actual implementation of the programme.

Despite the constraints in implementation of PMEGP mentioned above, a total of 36,281 projects could be got sanctioned by banks and loans could actually be disbursed in 25507 cases in 2008-09 for creation of estimated employment opportunities for 2.55 lakh persons.

(e) For improved implementation of PMEGP and achieving the targets during 2009-10, all Chief Ministers have been requested to instruct the State implementing agencies, namely, DICs, KVIBs and Banks to put in more concerted efforts in improving the performance of PMEGP. Regular review meetings are also being undertaken by National Level Monitoring Committee, KVIC and others including communication of district level targets well in advance by KVIC, etc. Project profiles of more than 300 model projects have been made available in the websites namely *www.kvic.org.in* and *www.pmegp.in* and around 515 training centres across the country have been accredited by KVIC for imparting EDP training to the PMEGP beneficiaries for facilitating the offtake of bank finance with margin money subsidy.

Proposal to award 'Khadi Production Certificate' to weavers

1786. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state: